Tribals residing in forests

†*269. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tribal people residing in forests remain naked even today;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the details of Government's action plan to improve their standard of living?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH) (a) to (c) There are two Scheduled Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Jarawas and Sentinelese who are residing in forests and remain almost naked even today. The Jarawas and Sentinelese are declared as aboriginal tribes since 1956. They were along with other tribes declared Scheduled Tribes in 1959. As per 2001 Census, the Jarawas are 240 and the Sentinelese are 39 in number estimated. The Sentinelese are still hostile and live in isolation in North Sentinel Island. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration provide gift etc. from a distance. Jarawas are living in South and Middle Andaman. Andaman and Nicobar Administration has informed that the population of Jarawas is now 266. Andaman and Nicobar Islands declared certain territories as reserve for aboriginal people of the Island and some parts of South and Middle Andaman were reserved for Jarawas. The Jarawas were hostile but have come in contact with outsiders since 1997. The contact of Jarawas with outsiders led to some problems such as measles, skin diseases etc.

The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has taken action for the welfare of the Jarawas:—

1. Exclusive natural resources base *i.e.* Jarawa tribal forest reserve has been increased from 847 sq. kms. to 1028 sq. kms. for their foraging.
2. Exclusive marine resource base has also been increased by declaring coastal water up to 5 km. from high tide mark as tribal reserve.
3. Jarawa tribal reseve has been carved out taking into account natural features like hill range peaks, creeks etc. as far as practicable so that boundaries of the reserve area is intelligible to all concerned

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

thereby trespass into reserve area is avoided. There will be no intervention in the day to day life of the Jarawas.

4. Andaman Trunk Road belt has been decreased from 200 meters on either side of the tar road to only 30 meters from the center line of the road on either side.

5. Enforcement measures have been intensified by the Police and Forest to protect the Jarawa resource base in the Forest and coastal water.

6. Police, trained anthropologists and other welfare functionaries are pressed into service for regular patrolling at vulnerable places to prevent unauthorized contact of non-tribals with the Jarawas.

7. Sites of Police, Forest and PWD are reviewed and rationalized by relocating some of them as far away as possible from the vicinity of Jarawas territory to avoid non-Jarawa's proximity to Jarawas.

8. Standing Health Team consisting of experience and selected doctors has been constituted which visits the Jarawas in the forest periodically to make assessment of their health and provide required care in the Jarawa area itself to the extent feasible.

9. Trained health workers are deployed in the field daily to provide treatment for minor ailments *in situ* and thereby avoiding evacuation of Jarawas to the hospital for minor ailment.

10. Jarawa patients are shifted to hospital only when it is inevitable keeping in view their health interest/to save their life.

11. Separate/exclusive hospital wards for Jarawas have been provided and such wards are declared as Tribal Reserve, the entry into which by non-tribals is prohibited without the permit from the competent authority.

Fake NGOs

†*270. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details on Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) receiving financial assistance under various schemes being run by her Ministry; State-wise;

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